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DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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24 November 1969

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Approved For Release 2003/06/11 : CIA-RDP79T00975A015000070001-7

Approved For Release 2003/06/11 : CIA-RDP79T00975A015000070001-7

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No. 0281/69  
24 November 1969

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Iraq: [A struggle for power is developing within the ruling party.]

[The civilian wing of the Baath Party is threatening the present dominance of the party's military wing. The pressures that forced the recent enlargement of the executive Revolutionary Command Council on 9 November are continuing, and the fact that most of the new members are civilians increases the leverage of the civilian wing on the military clique.]

[Although the civilian faction does not exercise control of military units as such, it can count on the loyalty of many junior officers, the party militia, the civilian party apparatus, and perhaps a number of non-Baathists both in the army and outside it.]

[A successful coup by this group, however, would still leave Iraq in essentially the same political posture in its relationship with the West.]

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NOTES

UN-SALT: (The Mexicans have circulated to a number of UN members in New York a draft resolution that would have the General Assembly call upon the two superpowers, during the Helsinki talks, to agree on a moratorium on further testing and deployment of any offensive and defensive strategic weapon systems not presently operational. A Soviet official at the UN has said that he is certain that Moscow would share US dislike of this initiative, but he is awaiting instructions before responding officially. A number of UN members made statements last week in favor of such a moratorium. Believing that some kind of Assembly resolution on the subject has now become "unavoidable," the Dutch have asked the US to approve an alternative draft that would call on all nuclear weapon states merely to refrain from actions prejudicial to the success of SALT.

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Bolivia: President Ovando has used the harshest and most emotional language yet in attacking the Gulf Oil Company. In a speech at Santa Cruz, the center of the Bolivian petroleum industry, Ovando charged that Gulf had taken disproportionate profits out of the country and had tried to set itself up as the arbiter of national political life. He told the people of Santa Cruz, who are suffering the most economically because of the nationalization of the company, that he could guarantee that Gulf will not return. He promised that Bolivia will soon have new markets for its oil and that the gas pipeline to Argentina will be completed "in spite of everyone."

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France: Despite continued scattered strike activity--in the electrical, atomic, and agricultural sectors--government officials believe that the worst of the fall agitation is over. They are encouraged by the latest statistical forecasts that indicate real wages are up and unemployment is stable. The Pompidou government has been largely successful thus far in forestalling labor unrest this fall.

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